

2017-18

**Rhode Island Department of Education and the Division of Teaching and Learning
Honors Colloquium**

*Curriculum: What is the compelling research?; Focus and Coherence; Equity ; Promising Practices and
Debunking Myths*



David Steiner: October 23, 2017

Professional Biography: David Steiner is Director of the Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy and Professor of Education at Johns Hopkins University. He currently serves as a member of the State Board of Education and on the Maryland Commission for Innovation and Excellence in Education. Additionally, he serves on the boards of Urban Teachers and Relay Graduate School of Education. He previously served as Commissioner of Education for New York State, as the Klara and Larry Silverstein Dean at the Hunter College School of Education, and as Director of Education at the National Endowment for the Arts. As NYS Commissioner, Dr. Steiner took a lead role in the State's successful \$700 million Race to the Top application to support the redesign of state standards, assessments, and teacher certification requirements.



Kate Gerson: March 8, 2018

Professional Biography: Kate Gerson has driven the design and development of curriculum implementation and professional learning, trained transformational school leaders, and served as both a high school teacher and principal. As managing partner of programs, Kate sets the vision and oversees the design, delivery and quality of all programs. Kate was the senior fellow for educator engagement at the Regents Research Fund, where she oversaw the design and development of New York State's groundbreaking curriculum, training and professional development resources related to higher educational standards on EngageNY.org. Previously, she was executive director with the national nonprofit New Leaders and trained aspiring school leaders. She also served as a principal at a turnaround high school for over-aged, under-credited students in South Brooklyn, New York



Eric Hirsch: January 18, 2018

Professional Biography: Eric Hirsch is the Founding Executive Director of EdReports.org, a nonpartisan, independent nonprofit providing rigorous reviews of the standards alignment and usability of yearlong instructional materials. In less than three years, EdReports has published approximately 300 reviews of K-12 math and ELA materials used by hundreds of districts to inform curriculum selection and implementation decisions. Prior to coming to EdReports.org, Eric was the Chief External Affairs Officer at the New Teacher Center, the Executive Director of the Center for Teaching Quality and the Education Program Manager at the National Conference of State Legislatures. He has supported policymakers in 35 states, written and published more than 150 articles, book chapters, reports and policy briefs, and presented at conferences across the country on issues related to teaching and learning.



David Liben: May 10, 2018

Professional Biography: David Liben is the Senior Content Specialist of the Literacy and English Language Arts team at Student Achievement Partners. David has taught elementary, middle school and high school students in public and private schools, as well as community college and teacher preparation courses, in New York City and Vermont. David still spends as much time as possible in schools with teachers and children. Together with Meredith Liben, David founded two innovative model schools in New York City - New York Prep, a junior high school in East Harlem, and in 1991, the Family Academy - where he served as Principal and lead curriculum designer. David holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in school administration from Teachers College, Columbia University.